

# New Bernal Journal

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SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

## Luxury Condos at Mission & Cesar Chavez?

### CASH POLITICS IN THE COMMUNITY: AN EDITORIAL

By Joseph Smooke

On April 19 the Planning Department approved a market-rate condo development with a 24-hour Walgreens store at the northwest corner of Cesar Chavez and Mission where the Kelly Moore paint store used to be. The approved project by Seven Hills Properties is 50-feet and 4-stories high with 60 ownership units and 67 residential parking spaces. The developer is providing nine “affordable” units to comply with the current inclusionary housing law that requires 15% of the units to be “below market rate.” To support the Walgreens, the developer is also including 24 customer parking spaces, twelve spaces for employees and one car share space.

Instead of high priced condos and 24-hour Walgreens, what the Mission truly needs are 100% affordable housing and community space. The development as proposed is not in compliance with the City of San Francisco’s General Plan or the recent Eastern Neighborhoods Planning rezoning requirements. As skyrocketing property values send families fleeing San Francisco, the Planning Department recognized the extraordinary need for more affordable housing in these working class neighborhoods when they recently adopted a policy that development should include affordable housing far in excess of the City-wide requirements. These policies are an attempt to counterbalance the massive loss of af-



Site of the old Kelly Moore store at the corner of Mission and Cesar Chavez

### What the Mission truly needs are 100% affordable housing and community space.

fordable housing and blue collar jobs from the Eastern Neighborhoods during the recent wave of “live-work” conversions—conversions that change Production, Distribution and Repair (PDR, also known as “light industrial”) buildings to residential use without rezoning. Despite these policies, the Planning Department has now approved a project that doesn’t even follow their own guidelines. It is an affront to our community that the Planning Department does not take the proj-

continued on page 16

### WHAT MORE CONDOS MEAN FOR US

By Emma Gerould

At a time when affordable family housing is on the political agenda, Seven Hills Properties’ condominium development has received approvals from the Planning Department for sixty new condos and a twenty-four hour Walgreens Drug Store at 3400 Cesar Chavez Street (at Mission), currently an empty parking lot where day laborers wait for work. The Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC) and other Mission allies including Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center oppose the condos on the basis that the project

does not take into account the needs of the community; affordable housing for families, land values, and traffic concerns.

The Seven Hills proposal is not an isolated development, as condominiums are being built across the Mission District. What does this mean for over ninety percent of residents who cannot afford to buy new condos? In this traditionally low-income neighborhood, sky rocketing land values will cause residents to be priced out of their own community, as evidenced by the Mission having one of the highest levels of Ellis Act and owner-move in evictions in San Francisco.

Although Seven Hills Properties claims that the 3400 Cesar Chavez development is for local families, nothing could be further from the truth. To afford a condo, a family or individual must make \$203,000 a year in an area where the median income for a family is \$44,000. The majority of the condos are one bedroom and, in fact, only four of the nine designated affordable units are for families. Despite the developer’s claims, these units are not affordable for a typical family living in the Mission.

Additionally, Mission and Cesar Chavez is already one of the most dangerous intersections for pedestrians with the seventh highest pedestrian fatality rate in San Francisco. The expected increase in congestion and traffic caused by the 16,000 square feet of retail space and Walgreens’ twenty-four hour service will likely additionally impact pedestrians’ safety.

MAC has appealed the Planning Commission’s approvals to the Board of Supervisors, urging the Board not to approve the condo proposal. Pursuant to an invitation from Seven Hills Properties for community groups to make an offer to take this development over and meet the community’s needs, Mission residents and

continued on page 19

Despite the developer’s claims, these units are not affordable for a typical family.

### THE ELEMENTAL ART FORM:

## The Making of YoViP’s Theater/Video Project

By Jeff Lester

When Frederique Clermont, the Director of Youth Services for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, watched the members of BHNC’s Youth Violence Prevention Group (YoViP)

### These youth have very sophisticated views on violence and incarceration.

working on a skit called “Break The Violence,” she immediately saw the possibilities. “They were looking into the issues of violence of community, using their own experiences and their own viewpoints,” she said. “Seeing how they enjoyed doing that, I went up to them and said, ‘Would you be interested in taking this to another level?’”

“Another level” was a project that would span

the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, BHNC’s Greater Mission Consortium in the Excelsior District, the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, BAYCAT in Bayview Hunters Point, and the art forms of both theater and video. “I’m really a believer in experiential learning,” Clermont explained. “People talk about performing, but they don’t know how to present themselves, and how to prepare themselves. People talk about videos, but they’ve never held a camera before, don’t know how to use a crop bar. These are all skills you can learn, and skills are something you can get paid for.”

With this in mind, Clermont and BHNC applied for a grant through the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice that would provide funds for the kids of YoViP to expand their skit into a full-blown theater production, and also work with the video production arm of BAYCAT to film the theater project and create a documentary. “The main idea is to use the technology to impact the divide,” according to Clermont. “Kids can improve their proficiency with the computer and gain valuable experience on state of the art editing programs.”

continued on page 7

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515 Cortland Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 206-2140 ext. 108  
e-mail: nbj@bhnc.org  
fax: (415) 648-0793

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDI BERTON  
JEFF LESTER  
KATHY O'GRADY  
JOSEPH SMOOKE

SPANISH TRANSLATION  
MICHELLE GUTIERREZ

ADVERTISING  
KATHY O'GRADY

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Neighborhood Center.**  
It is dedicated to providing the  
people of Bernal Heights with their  
community's news,  
ideas, issues,  
and events which support the  
center's mission:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center  
works to preserve and enhance  
the ethnic, cultural, and economic  
diversity of Bernal Heights and sur-  
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BHNC focuses on the needs of people  
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We work to accomplish our mission by:

- Developing affordable housing  
throughout San Francisco;
- Providing linguistically and  
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adults, seniors, youth, and their  
families;
- Developing leaders; organizing and  
empowering our tenants, clients,  
members, and allies to advocate for  
their needs and for the needs of the  
community.

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Please make all computer disk  
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e-mail them to nbj@bhnc.org



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To see the rich diversity of our community at the Neighbor-  
hood Center on May 20 at our Community Congress was ener-  
gizing—not just for me but for all who attended. The extraordi-  
nary level of participation from everyone in attendance exem-  
plified what living in Bernal Heights is all about.

Special thanks to our venerable Supervisor Ammiano who  
opened the day with an eloquent welcome and dedicated the  
subsequent part of Congress to David Ayoob, Cortland Mer-  
chant leader and BHNC Board member who passed away sud-  
denly only a few months ago. Big thanks also go out to Assem-  
blyman Leno for speaking and fielding  
questions; to Mayor Newsom for joining  
three of the break-out sessions then tak-  
ing many questions from the nearly 200  
people packed into the Dining Room;  
and to Police Commissioner David Cam-  
pos, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice  
Director Lenore Anderson, Ingleside Po-  
lice Captain Paul Chignell and his Ser-  
geant Jim Miller, Mayor's Office of  
Neighborhood Services staff Andrea  
Bruss, Assistant District Attorney Sha-  
ron Woo, Mayor's staff Mike Farrah and  
Ammiano's staff Zach Tuller who were  
all available to our community as re-  
sources during Congress. Thanks also to Cortland Merchants  
Association President Darcy Lee for hosting one of our Break-  
out groups in her home, to the Bernal Recreation Center for  
hosting another Break-out group, and to the Deli Pub for pro-  
viding lunch.

Congratulations to Alice Gilbeaux, Clare Nolan and Eric  
Quezada for their re-elections to the BHNC Board of Directors.  
And Alan Fisher, who has been such an amazing Board mem-  
ber for so many years as an appointed member, was finally able  
to run for an elected seat because he now lives in Bernal  
Heights. He was elected through the vote as well. In other  
Board news, I was extremely honored to have Eric Quezada join  
me to facilitate the day while Johanna Silva, BHNC Board  
President, who typically co-facilitates with me, was getting  
married down the street at St Kevin's Church. Congratulations,  
Johanna!

Based on the Strategic Planning we have done for the past  
year, we presented revisions to our By-Laws to our membership  
for a vote. BHNC cannot change its By-Laws without approval  
from two-thirds of the eligible voting members present at our  
Congress. We presented two primary changes: (1) to change the  
eligibility criteria for voting members to include people, regard-  
less of where they live, who commit at least two hours a month  
for three months in support of BHNC's programs. This recog-  
nizes our community organizing work and volunteerism as be-  
ing just as important as our direct service work; (2) to clarify in  
our By-Laws our practice since 1997 to elect a third of our  
Board's fifteen elected Board seats each year, thus staggering

the 3 year terms of our Board seats. Both measures passed  
overwhelmingly!

This is all really important stuff, but how does BHNC impact  
people's lives? For that, we first heard from Lupe Bravo, dancer  
with the Bernal Tappers and regular in BHNC's Computer Lab.  
Then, talking about how wonderful it is to live at Bernal Gate-  
way, was Winnie Luong who will be going to Lowell High School  
next year. Joining Winnie was Tina Gonzalez, staff of Lutheran  
Social Services, the non-profit that provides supportive services  
to residents at Bernal Gateway. Frank Kellom, resident leader  
at Alemany Public Housing and recent  
winner of a Safety Network award, talk-  
ed about how important it was to have  
his neighbors at Congress and to have  
Alemany be included as part of Bernal  
Heights.

Another highlight was having our  
2007 winners of the David Bernard Me-  
morial Youth Education Program awards  
receive their awards, and address the  
crowd. Solomon J. Webster, Antonio  
Jones, Brittany Rhynen Jones, Gabriela  
Ramirez, and Tuline Kinaci each re-  
ceived their certificate which, thanks to  
David Bernard and BHNC Board mem-

ber Larry Cruz, represents a \$1,000 award to support their ex-  
penses directly related to each of these youth moving on to sec-  
ondary education. These are truly the leaders of tomorrow!

I started this letter with thanks, and I will wrap it up the  
same way! BHNC Community Organizer Jane Martin and our  
Safety Network Organizer Emma Gerould pulled off a fantastic  
Community Congress. Unfortunately, Emma has just been fill-  
ing in on a temporary basis. We will miss her as she travels off  
to study Spanish! Another person whom we will sorely miss is  
Angela Calvillo, aide to Supervisor Ammiano for more than a  
decade. Angela has been the gold standard of effectiveness at  
City Hall. She is a master of a multitude of issues and the intri-  
cacies of maneuvering at City Hall, and as a result has made  
Tom Ammiano's vision of service to the District a reality. The  
Board of Supervisors is lucky to continue working with Angela  
as she becomes the Clerk of the Board, a very important posi-  
tion for the workings of our City and County's legislative body.  
As a City, we are lucky that she will continue to raise the level  
of quality of the Board through her savvy and dedication, but  
we are very sad to lose her as an advocate for District 9.

As we wrap up our membership drive, please make sure to  
get your membership dues in. As you will see in this issue of the  
NBJ, BHNC is more vital than ever, and we are bringing our  
community together in ways that make positive change for ev-  
eryone in our community. To continue to do this great work, we  
need your support, so please send in your membership today!

Thanks so much and happy reading! —Joseph Smooke  
*Executive Director, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center*

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Senior Food Box Program  
Volunteer Dinner
- 5 Hillwide Garage Sale
- 6 Fiesta on the Hill 2007

8 NBJ IN ESPAÑOL  
¿Que Significan Mas  
Condos en la Misión?  
Nuestra Cena de  
Voluntarios

- 9 Letter from Ammiano
- 10 Letter from Leno
- 12 Letter from Sandoval  
Speak out for Families  
Rec Center Update
- 13 Library News
- 14 Bernal History Days  
Housing Supplemental  
Rally
- 15 Legends of the Hill  
Homes Not Jails  
Soap Box Lectures
- 16 Bernal Heights Outdoor  
Cinema
- 18 Classifieds

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## BHNC PROGRAMS ORGANIZING

## A GREAT SUCCESS!

# Congress 2007 A Meeting of a Diverse and Engaged Community

by Jane Martin

BHNC's Annual Congress was a great success once again! Community members turned out in mass to hear neighborhood news and discuss community issues.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano opened up the day with a rousing welcome, and lively discussion of neighborhood violence prevention efforts followed. Residents thanked city agencies and the Police Department for their work with the community, and focused on the need for more social intervention with youth engaged in crime, as well as the need for more after school programs. Alice Carruthers from the Alemany Resident Management Council (an organization of local public housing residents) announced that the RMC is starting programs for youth, including providing teenagers stipends for working on the Alemany farm. Residents also brainstormed with Bernal Recreation Center Director Howard Smith on how to work with the Bernal Gym to get both more programs and more teens participating at the gym.

In a great speech, State Assemblyman Mark Leno commended the Neighborhood Center for organizing to save the senior food box program and highlighted the role he's played in supporting this essential program. Congress participants discussed methods of continuing this campaign, including planning letter writing and phone call campaigns, partnerships with other organizations, and meeting with Diane Feinstein to lobby for her support.

Youth from BHNC/GMC programs were also in the house and engaged in a fo-

cus group to discuss what makes a good work experience. BHNC staff say their feedback will be useful in designing job retention programs. Mayor Gavin Newsom even stopped by the focus group to say “what’s up” and listen in.

Another discussion group addressed the question—how does a non-profit like the BHNC develop affordable housing? How do we support better land use policies to make this happen? Participants agreed community support is a key element, and discussed how the community members can support more affordable housing development at Cesar Chavez and Mission.

At then end of the day, there was lunch and music, but not before Mayor Newsom answered some questions.

## The Mayor at Congress— on the issues:

Newsom answered lots of tough questions at Congress, and his participation was commended by all. Community members thanked him for his outstanding commitment to violence prevention, asking him to back the Neighborhood Center's budget requests for social intervention with youth engaged in crime. Newsom said it may not be in his current budget, but noted that it could be incorporated in the next few weeks through the "add back process."

Despite Mayor Newsom's commendable stated commitment to public housing, his commitment to Alemany is still unclear. When Alemany resident Frank Kellom asked the Mayor about it, Newsom said that Alemany was on his list to get city money as part of SF HOPE and want-



left: Youth discuss  
job experiences at  
BHNC Congress  
with Mayor Newsom

below: BHNC members, Rec Director Howard Smith, and Sergeant Miller discuss violence prevention at BHNC Congress



ed it to be completely redeveloped in the next ten to fifteen years. However, Alemany is not yet actually on the SF HOPE list; hopefully, the Mayor's remarks signal he will be working to get Alemany included. Newsom also avoided talking about how to address the pressing concern of vacant units at Alemany. Federal funding cuts have severely impacted the Housing Authority. In light of this crisis, supervisors have suggested using city money to refurbish vacant units but this was a topic about which Newsom seemed unwilling to commit himself.

In response to repeated questions from multiple community members about the proposed Seven Hills Properties' condo and Walgreens development at Chavez and Mission, Newsom admitted he hasn't met with community members to discuss proposed alternatives, like 100% affordable housing, even though he has been meeting with the condo developer. In the end he agreed to meet with community residents and the Mission Anti Displacement Coalition on the subject.

Antonio Jones, a participant in the youth focus group, asked Newsom about the decreased Muni service to Visitacion Valley since the T-line started and the

Muni bus 15 line has been discontinued. Newsom made some insubstantial statements, and noted the T-line is still a work in progress.

Following Mayor Newsom's Q&A, Assemblyman Mark Leno, Assistant District Attorney Sharon Woo, Zach Tuller from Tom Ammiano's office, Police Commissioner David Campos, Mayor's office of Criminal Justice Director Lenore Anderson, and Mike Farrah from the Mayor's staff all gave brief presentations. After questions and discussions, Bernal's Community Congress adjourned for lunch, music, and lively conversation that carried with it the reinvigorated resolve of community members determined to make Bernal Heights even better for all its inhabitants. ■

## GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Come to our Next Bernal Safety Network Committee Meeting

**When: Wednesday June 20th, 6:30pm**

**Where: BHNC (515 Cortland Ave at Andover)**

Or call find out when our next meeting to talk about affordable housing, neighborhood planning, or the senior food box will be held.

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## BHNC PROGRAMS

### SENIORS

# BHNC Seniors Battle to Save Food Program

By Emma Gerould

Every month at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Seniors come to pick up their food box containing such nutritional food as grains, meats, dairy, fruits and vegetables. "The food box is

**The majority of food box participants are seniors on Social Security Income and receive below \$1,100 a month.**

an integral part of senior's lives," Roland Soriano explains, the senior program staff member who works with BHNC seniors daily.

Although the food box is only once a month, the fresh dairy products and produce make a big difference for seniors. "Without the food box, they would not be able to meet their nutritional needs," Roland adds. However, this budget season President Bush proposes eliminating this food safety net program

for 10,000 San Franciscan seniors and 500,000 seniors nationwide.

The Bush Administration claims that the food box participants can just sign up for food stamps instead. However, the majority of food box participants are seniors on Social Security Income (SSI) and receive below \$1,100 a month. Last year, Congress approved cuts to the CSFF program which pushed 1,026 San Francisco seniors off the program. This year, they want to eliminate the program altogether.

BHNC seniors know this program is important for their health and livelihood.

But not only is the program a great resource for the seniors, it is also cost effective for the government: the program is run by mostly volunteers and the US Department of Agriculture only pays \$16 per box, even though the value of the food for each box is \$50.

BHNC has partnered with the Food Bank to save this essential program: seniors at the BHNC center are writing letters and setting up meetings with their Congressmen and Senators, urging them to vote fully fund the \$157 million dollar program rather than eliminating it. Readers are encouraged to join them in this important struggle. ■

*For information regarding writing a letter to your Congressman, contact Roland at [rsoriano@bhnc.org](mailto:rsoriano@bhnc.org).*



JOSEPH SMOOKE

# Heart of Neighborhood Center Celebrated at Volunteer Dinner

By Katie Waddell and Karen Garrison

With a wonderful dinner on April 25, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center recognized and honored nearly ninety community volunteers who have worked tirelessly to improve and enhance our community. San Francisco Symphony bassoonist and Bernal resident Steven Dibner played as volunteers streamed in to enjoy a dinner beautifully prepared by Giovanni's Restaurant, long time Bernal merchants (and residents) located at Crescent and Mission Street. Later, Executive Director Joseph Smooke delivered an appreciation speech, and volunteers were treated to an extravagant raffle with gifts provided by the following local businesses and organizations: Asian Art Museum, City Beer, Good Frikin' Chicken, Mary Kay Representative Chris King, Mitchell's Ice Cream, MOAD, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, Safeway, The Sak, See's Candies, Shamiana Designer, SF MOMA, and Zanze's Cheesecake.

The annual aid of nearly five hundred volunteers exponentially magnifies the good work of our thirty-two BHNC staff members from our four departments. Volunteers are instrumental in helping the BHNC staff to provide vital services and community efforts such as: creating and improving affordable housing options; preventing violence in the community through community committees; working with at-risk youth; conducting recreational activities with seniors in our Center as well as delivering food, transporting clients to doctors appointments, completing small personal tasks and providing one on one companionship. In addition to all this, volunteers also help with a number of administrative tasks and projects, along with Fiesta On The Hill, our large fundraising event that is held every year. Without faithful volunteers, BHNC would not operate and function with the excellence it does, so thank you again to all who work so hard to make our community a better place. ■

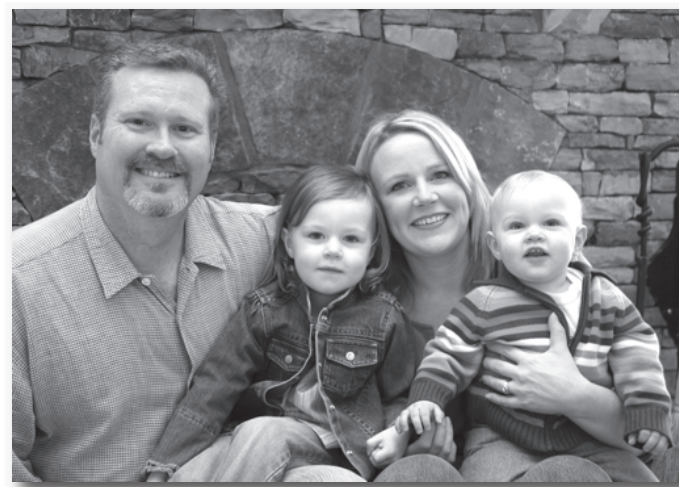
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# The World’s Biggest Garage Sale?

WELL, MAYBE NOT, BUT IT’S CLOSE...

By Karen Garrison

As we approach our 14th year of facilitating the Hillwide Garage Sale—please note it is Saturday, August 18th and the date is creeping up quickly—the Senior Services Department of the BHNC is gearing up for our big fundraiser of the year. Last summer’s sale was a banner year where over a hundred households in Bernal Heights registered with us to have their own individual garage sales. (We, of course, also had a sale here at the BHNC.) Each official site paid a registration fee to the BHNC Senior Services Department of \$23 to \$28 (BHNC Member vs. Non Member) or street sites for \$40 in order to participate in this event. The vast majority of the garage sites were in South Bernal, with a growing contingent of sites situated on the North West side of the hill.

Crowds and cars are an unmistakable part of this event as excited shoppers traverse up and down the winding streets of Bernal Heights searching for that perfect recycled knickknack, sweater, toy, etc., to add to their personal collection. For many people, the Hillwide Garage Sale is an annual tradition. This is the day to make deals and scoop up the best bargains. About 50% of our registered sites participate on a yearly or bi-yearly basis, while the other 50% are people either moving in or out of the neighborhood, or people who’ve decided they have just “too much stuff.”

The “race for the map” is also an annual sub-event, as BHNC staff and volunteers madly organize all sites into 4 quadrants. This is further complicated because garage sale hosts tend to register at the last minute—it’s not uncommon for us to get 40% of our sites the last week before the sale. The Hillwide Garage Sale is a community event that captures the feeling of a mini street fair, flea market, traffic jam and all out grass roots community event, and brings together an impressive mix of Bernal and non-Bernal residents. The end result of all this activity is that the Senior Services Department has raised approximately \$4,000 to support our NEST Case Management Program and Active Senior Program here at the BHNC. So please join us on Saturday, August 18 to shop, donate items to the Center, or host your own garage sale. ■

If you’re interested in hosting your own garage sale, or donating items to the BHNC, please contact Karen Garrison at kgarrison@bhnc.org



Bernal Heights residents hosting thier own garage sales (left) and shopping along Cortland Avenue at the street sites (right)



JOSEPH SMOORE

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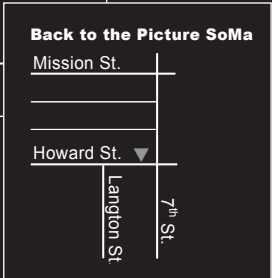
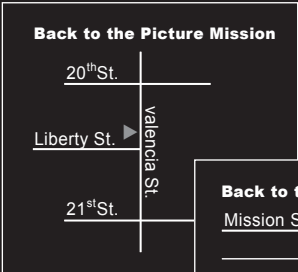
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BHNC PROGRAMS  
DEVELOPMENT

Get The Party Started!

COMMUNITY PREPARES FOR 19TH ANNUAL FIESTA ON THE HILL

By Steve Shapiro

It takes a lot of time, energy and creativity to plan a good party and nobody does it better than Bernal! This year's 19th annual Fiesta on the Hill will take place Sunday, October 21, 2007, on Cortland Avenue. Fiesta is always a great time—not just for Bernal Heights residents, but for friends and visitors from all surrounding neighborhoods of the city and Bay Area. The quality and diversity of our entertainment, the food, the games, the arts and crafts, and the usually fine weather all help attract huge crowds every year. It's a big street fair but with a decidedly small village feel and that's because it's a community-run event.

It takes nearly two hundred volunteers to organize and produce Fiesta and volunteer committees are now beginning the work of soliciting and selecting the entertainment. Soon, volunteers will be doing outreach, spreading the word city-wide about how Fiesta is the best way to spend a Sunday in October. More than one hundred volunteers will work on the day of Fiesta to close the street, set up the booths, help vendors load-in, and help neighbors with any Fiesta-related problems. Additionally, volunteers on that day will pass out programs, sell raffle tickets, help inform festival-goers about our "no alcohol" policy, support the musicians, and serve food to other volunteers.

They'll also clean up and do almost anything else you can think of to assure that everyone has a great day on Cortland.

Our Fiesta Coordinator extraordinaire of the past three years, Claire Van Zevern, has stepped down this year in order to give birth to her first child. (She will, no doubt, be front and center at the Children's stage on October 21.) Ms. Coco Corona, a veteran of many outdoor events and celebrations, is the new coordinator for this year's Fiesta on the Hill. Those of you who attended this year's Cinco de Mayo celebration in Dolores Park got a hint of her handiwork—it was a joyous day of community spirit and fun! She will be overseeing volunteers, vendors, sponsors and media relations for Fiesta.

So, let's welcome Coco with an outpouring of Bernal spirit: write to her at [fiesta@bhnc.org](mailto:fiesta@bhnc.org) and tell her that you're ready, willing and able to pitch in as a volunteer and make this the best Fiesta yet. Volunteers are needed prior to and the day of Fiesta. Volunteering is fun, free, and a great way to get both a Fiesta t-shirt and lunch on October 21!

Fiesta on the Hill is also a great opportunity for local businesses to be recog-

nized for their community involvement by sponsoring the event. We have sponsorship packages for all budgets so if you'd like to support BHNC with a Fiesta sponsorship, contact Coco at [fiesta@bhnc.org](mailto:fiesta@bhnc.org) or (415) 269-9844.

And if you're an entertainer, it's time for you to step up! Our Entertainment Committee, comprised of community volunteers and BHNC Board and staff members, will sift through submissions and scout local clubs to find just the right entertainment and continue to make Fiesta a premier venue for great music. Remember, we also dedicate the first two hours at the East stage to children's entertainment so children's entertainers are also encouraged to contact us. The Entertainment Committee is accepting submis-

sions now with final booking decisions to be made by early August. The committee will be looking for a diversity of music styles, bands with a Bernal and/or local connection, and a strong following who primarily perform original music.

On-line submissions can be sent to [fiesta@bhnc.org](mailto:fiesta@bhnc.org), or either mailed to or dropped off at BHNC, 515 Cortland Ave. As always, we have a modest budget with which to make a great program happen and we always get a very large number of submissions.

Finally, we will be accepting vendor applications starting June 15. If you'd like to have a booth or table at Fiesta contact us at [fiesta@bhnc.org](mailto:fiesta@bhnc.org) or download an application from our website, [www.bhnc.org](http://www.bhnc.org).

See you all on the Avenue on October 21!



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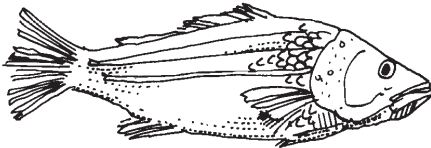
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BHNC PROGRAMS  
YOUTH

COVER STORY  
Yo/ViP

continued from page 1

Sara Breslor, Associate Program Director at BAYCAT, agrees. “We try to combine these ‘hard skills’ with ‘soft skills’ like self-expression, confidence building, time management and conflict resolution.” After being contacted by Clermont about the project, Breslor knew that the project was perfect for BAYCAT. “We have not previously worked with the Neighborhood Center, but we have had our work in the Bernal Heights Film Festival and had volunteers at Fiesta on the Hill. I’d also worked with Frederique through the Greater Mission Consortium.” Added Breslor: “It’s a great group of youth. They’re just catching on very fast. They’re very creative, spontaneous, and open.”

It’s a spontaneity that director and theater consultant Rebecca Schultz also appreciates, and works closely with the kids to develop. “I’m still trying to determine whether the piece is going to be written collaboratively,” Shultz said. “or if one or two people will do the bulk of the writing. But all of the material is generated by the kids. They have very sophisticated views on violence and incarceration. I was just at a hearing on juvenile incarceration and the people involved would do well to listen to what people who are experiencing it would have to say.”

A veteran of the San Francisco Mime Troupe, as well as a student of Siti Company, FoolsFury, Anne Galjour, and Deborah Slater, Schultz is no neophyte when it comes to sophisticated views on violence

and incarceration: she is also co-founder of the Bay Area Theatre of the Oppressed, a theatre group and social change conference that has worked with prisoners, the homeless and survivors of violence to present forum theatre pieces. “Nearly all of my work revolves around creating original theater that reflects a diversity of voices on a diversity of social issues, and one of the great rewards of my work is seeing the incredible work that these people create.”

Currently, Schultz works in tandem with lead BAYCAT video instructor William Davenport to teach the kids of YoViP the skills they need both before and behind the camera. “I’ve really enjoyed the collaboration with BAYCAT,” Schultz said. “There are a couple of youth who are particularly interested in the production side. Our hope is have a solid video production team and a solid theater team.”

The program isn’t without its challenges—“the youth are used to having programming strictly at the Youth Center [in the Excelsior],” noted Clermont, “so just moving them a block down [to the program’s current location] is a big deal”—but all involved feel the rewards are worth it. “Theater,” said Schultz, “is an artform that is elemental. Part of the thrill is seeing how it comes together.” ■

Stay tuned for upcoming performances this summer. For schedule, contact Frederique Clermont 415-206-2140 x169 or fclermont@bhnc.org

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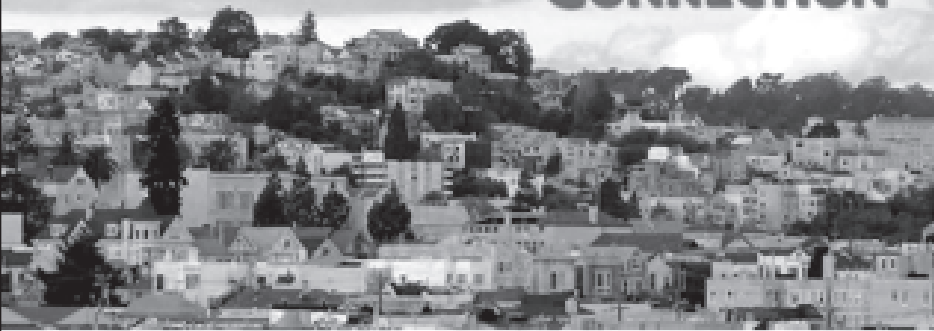
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# New Bernal Journal en Español

## ¿Que Significan Mas Condos en la Misión?

Por Emma Gerould

En un tiempo cuando envoltura económica de familia está en el orden del día político, el desarrollo de condominios Seven Hills Propiedades ha recibido las aprobaciones del Departamento de Planificación para sesenta nuevos condos y una tienda de droga Walgreens abierto veinticuatro horas del día, ubicado en el 3400 Calle de Cesar Chavez (en la Misión). Es actualmente un estacionamiento vacío donde jornaleros esperan el trabajo diario. La Coalición de Anti-Desplazamiento Misión ("MAC") y otros aliados de la Misión inclusive el Centro de Vecindario de Bernal Heights oponen los condos en la base que el proyecto no tiene en cuenta las necesidades de la comunidad; la vivienda razonable para familias, los valores de la tierra, y los asuntos de tráfico.

El propósito de Propiedades de Seven Hills no es un desarrollo aislado, como los condominios se están construyendo por todo el Distrito de la Misión. ¿Qué significa esto para los noventa por ciento de residentes que no pueden acceder a comprar un condo nuevo? En este vecindario tradicionalmente de bajo-ingresos, valores de la tierra subiendo al cielo causarán que residentes sean valorados fuera de su propia comunidad. Esto se evidencia como la Misión tiene uno de los niveles más altos del Acto de Ellis y casos en que el dueño se mueve y desahucia el residente, en San Francisco.

Aunque Propiedades de Seven Hills reclamen que el desarrollo de 3400 Cesar Chavez es para familias locales, nada po-

dría ser mas lejos de la verdad. Para proporcionar un condo, una familia o individuo tienen que hacer \$203.000 anual en un área donde los ingresos medianas para una familia son \$44.000. La mayoría de los condos son de un dormitorio y, de hecho, sólo cuatro de las nueve unidades económicas son designados para familias. A pesar de los reclamos del revelador, estas unidades no son económicas para una familia típica que vive en la Misión.

Adicionalmente, Misión y Cesar Chavez ya es uno de los cruces más peligrosos para peatones con la séptima tasa mas alto de pedestres muertos en San Francisco. El

aumento esperado de congestión y tráfico causado por los 16.000 pies cuadrados del espacio de venta y Walgreens' servicio de veinticuatro horas, se hace probable que adicionalmente impactara la seguridad de los peatones.

MAC ha apelado las aprobaciones de la Comisión de la Planificación a la Tabla de Supervisores, instando la Tabla no aprobar la propuesta de condos. Según una invitación de Propiedades de Seven

Hills, que grupos de la comunidad deben hacer una oferta para tomar este desarrollo y llegar a las necesidades de la comunidad, residentes de Misión y grupos de la comunidad, inclusive el BHNC, han trabajado fuertemente para crear un plan alternativo para el sitio que priorizaría las necesidades de la comunidad, inclusive viviendas razonables y servicios de la comunidad.

Testifica para viviendas razonables y no condos al costo del Mercado a la reunión de Tabla de Supervisores. Fecha y tiempo se anunciara.

Para mantenerse informado, mando un correo a [jmartin@bhnc.org](mailto:jmartin@bhnc.org) ■

**A pesar de los reclamos del revelador, estas unidades no son económicas para una familia típica que vive en la Misión.**



JOSEPH SHOOK

## Corazón del Centro de Vecindario Se Celebró En Nuestra Cena de Voluntarios

Por Katie Waddell y Karen Garrison

Con una cena maravillosa el 25 de abril, el Centro de VecindarioBrna reconoció y honró casi noventa voluntarios de la comunidad que han trabajado incansablemente para mejorar y aumentar nuestra comunidad. El fagotista de la Sinfonía de San Francisco y Bernal residente Steven Dibner toco mientras los voluntarios llegaron para gozar una cena hermosamente preparado por el Restaurante de Giovanni, mercader (y residente) de Bernal por largo tiempo localizado en la calle Crescent y la calle Misión. Más tarde, Director Ejecutivo Joseph Smooke entregó un discurso de apreciación, y los voluntarios fueron tratados a una rifa pródiga con regalos proporcionados por los siguientes negocios y organizaciones locales: El Museo de Arte Asiático, City Beer, Good Frikin' Chicken, Mary Kay Representative Chris King, Mitchell's Ice Cream, MOAD, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, Safeway, The Sak, See's Candies, Shamiana Designer, SF MOMA, y Zanze's Cheesecake.

La ayuda anual de casi quinientos voluntarios magnifica de manera exponencial el

trabajo buenísimo de nuestros treinta y dos empleados de BHNC de nuestros cuatro departamentos. Los voluntarios son instrumental en ayudar el personal de BHNC para proporcionar los esfuerzos esenciales de servicios y comunidad tales como: creando y mejorando las opciones de vivienda económicas; previniendo la violencia en la comunidad por comités de comunidad; trabajando con la juventud en riesgo; realizando las actividades recreativas con mayores de tercera edad en nuestro centro así como entregar alimentación, transportando clientes para citas de doctor, completando pequeñas tareas personales y proporcionando compañerismo. Además de todo esto, los voluntarios ayudan también con varias tareas y proyectos administrativos, también con Fiesta On The Hill, nuestro acontecimiento un grande recaudación de fondos que se hace todos los años. Sin voluntarios fieles, el BHNC no operaría y funcionaría con la excelencia que lo hace, de modo gracias otra vez a todo ese trabajo hecho fuertemente para hacer nuestra comunidad un mejor lugar. ■

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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

A Letter from Tom Ammiano

On May 4th, 2007, at 3:30 PM, a ceremony took place to celebrate the groundbreaking of La Raza/ Potrero del Sol Park, signifying that the community vision for Potrero del Sol Park had become a reality. The community saw the potential for making a space where the extended families of the Mission—gardeners, students and skaters—would all be drawn to the park by the added and improved facilities. Where before there was mostly unused park land, now families and groups will be able to come together at the 4.5 acre park to play soccer, skateboard, entertain, picnic, garden, let children play, and enjoy each other’s company.

Located in one of the densest, most under-served neighborhoods in this city, the renovated park provides a large, open green area with facilities for families and youth to utilize. This project will make a tremendous difference to hundreds of our most vulnerable San Franciscans—public school kids, at risk youth, immigrant families—on a daily basis. The project received full funding in 2005 when I (as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee) and the Committee allocated \$1.3 million dollars from excess general fund revenue to the project. Hundreds of people were part of this vision, and it will greatly enhance the quality of life for both the neighborhood and Bernal Heights.

I recently introduced a resolution calling for legislation at the State Level to overturn a California Supreme Court decision (“the Copley decision”) extending in scope the statute which allows police an unwarranted level of secrecy with respect to performance and misconduct hearings. There are currently two bills pending, one in the Senate and one in the Assembly (AB 1648 sponsored by Assemblyman Mark Leno), which would overturn the Copley decision and actually make the hearing process more transparent than before this decision came down. When applied to our own Police Commission, the Copley decision means that previously available records of mis-

conduct will no longer be available for public scrutiny. Community—and, to a large extent, local government—oversight has been drastically curtailed since the decision came down. California is almost unique in the level of secrecy allowed regarding police conduct. As we know, lack of transparency only fuels distrust, especially amongst marginalized communities when police conduct or misconduct is obscured. The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights supports AB 1648, as does the Asian Law Caucus, the National Lawyers Guild, the National Black Police Association, La Raza Centro Legal, the Chronicle, the Milk and Toklas Democratic clubs, and the Police Commission has expressed its will that the Copley decision should be overturned. The Board of Supervisors has a history of supporting transparency in government and in law enforcement, and I am happy to say that the resolution to overturn the Copley decision passed, although by a narrow margin.

My office is currently investigating legislative approaches to exert control over gas prices within the City. It is outrageous that San Franciscans pay nearly a dollar more than the national average for a gallon of gas, and this enormous discrepancy cannot be wholly dismissed by the boilerplate excuses that California lacks sufficient refining capacity and that the mandated fuel formulas are costly. I believe we are charged more because the oil companies think they can get more, and because there is no serious competition, not because we are geographical-ly disadvantaged.



Alemany Housing residents and supporters at City Hall with Supervisor Tom Ammiano after winning Board approval for \$300,000 for violence prevention programs at Alemany and for the Alemany Farm.

Some people say that keeping gas prices low is not a good public policy goal for many reasons, and there is certainly a lot of merit to that argument. What I would like to see is some parity for San Franciscans who are currently getting a raw deal from refiners. We’ll pay what the rest of the country pays, just not a dollar more than everyone else. Because the major oil companies have vertical control over oil and gas—starting with exploration and extraction and ending with their service stations—there is little chance for competitive pricing at the pump. I will continue to work with the office of the City Attorney to remedy the current situation. Enough is enough.

In other news, my office is working with the Real Estate Department and the BHNC to explore making Alemany Market a protected landmark. Few know that Alemany is the oldest farmers market on the West Coast, and I am hopeful that we will be able to improve and preserve this wonderful neighborhood asset for future generations. ■

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Your participation in this Senior Department event supports the programs and services for seniors and disabled adults in Bernal Heights and theExcelsior.



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

REDUCING OUR EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS

by Mark Leno, Assemblyman, District 13

Greetings Neighbors!  
Over the last 50 years, chemicals have come to play a role in all aspects of our lives. They make our clothes brighter, keep insects out of our fruits and vegetables and protect us from fires. But they come at a cost. Many of us assume that the chemicals in the products sold to us have gone through testing to ensure their safety. In fact, only a small number of the 80,000 chemicals registered with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been tested for harmful effects. Each of us

have some degree of chemical contamination in our bodies, and scientists are only now learning how these chemicals can have a profound effect on our health and the Earth.  
This year, I have authored Assembly Bill 706 which will ban the use of two classes of toxic fire retardants—brominated and chlorinated fire retardants—in upholstered furniture and bedding products such as pillows, comforters and mattresses.  
For all the right public safety reasons, California has some of the toughest fire retardance standards on the books. These standards, passed in the 1970’s, are the

reason why California became the first and only state that adds chemical fire retardants to our sofas, chairs, and mattresses. Not surprisingly, over the past twenty years, the toxic chemicals used as fire retardants have been measured at increasing and alarming rates in humans. Brominated fire retardants are found at the highest levels in babies, toddlers, and women. Because these chemicals bioaccumulate in fatty tissues, they are passed to babies when they are breast fed by their mothers. So, now that we know these chemicals are in us, what will they do to us? Unfortunately the growing body of research is chilling, to say the least. Studies link exposure to low concentrations of certain fire retardants to cancer and birth defects. Additionally, they can cause reproductive problems, disrupt thyroid hormone balance and contribute to a variety of neurological and developmental deficits, including low intelligence and learning disabilities. All of which is particularly frightening considering exposure to these chemicals begins in the womb, then through breast milk, and continually thereafter through dust from our upholstered furniture and other sources.  
Firefighters are also disproportionately affected. As the fire retardants in furniture burn, they convert into even more toxic chemicals such as dioxin that are released into smoke and soot. Recently, our own San Francisco Firefighters held a press conference to increase public awareness of their many firefighter colleagues whose lives have been cut short due to cancer. Of the 35 San Francisco active duty firefighters that have contracted job-related cancers in the last eight years, 15 of them have died. Also, in the last ten years, 215 of our retired San Francisco firefighters have contracted cancer and

25 of them have died.  
When the State Legislature banned two brominated fire retardant chemicals in 2003, the chemical industry response was to replace them with chlorinated Tris in our furniture. This is the same chemical that was banned from children’s pajamas over 30 years ago. With safer alternatives already on the market that meet our fire safety standards and create new economic opportunities for green chemistry, it’s clear we can do better. In fact, AB 706 may become a strong tool in increasing the fire safety of our furniture.  
While reducing our exposure to chemicals used as fire retardants requires a change in state law, you can make simple changes around your home to help avoid other kinds of toxic chemicals. To learn more about safe substitutes to consumer products such as laundry detergent, air fresheners and pesticides in your home you can go to this website: <http://es.epa.gov/techinfo/facts/safe-fs.html>  
Because most chemicals are presumed safe until proven otherwise, it’s our job to take the scientists and the studies seriously when they warn us of the risks that may be associated with them. Study after study show the dangers of brominated and chlorinated fire retardants. We can’t wait any longer to protect our kids and our workers from potentially dangerous exposure to toxic chemicals.  
If you would like more information about my work in creating a safer environment for each of us, and in particular supporting our brave men and women in the firefighting community, please feel free to contact my office here in San Francisco, 415-557-3013, email me directly at [Assemblymember.Leno@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Leno@asm.ca.gov), or visit my website at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a13> ■

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# COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

## FREE MUNI IS WITHIN OUR GRASP!

By Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval

The recent crisis on Muni’s new 3rd Street light-rail line illustrates the problems embedded within the Metropolitan Transportation Agency. But the additional focus on Muni has increased the possibility of instituting reforms that will provide better Muni service and, quite possibly, free Muni service.

Chronic underfunding has created a system that is overburdened, poorly maintained and, worst of all, unreliable. If we want to transform Muni into a

While there are a number of steps to complete before the City can implement any of these proposals, the largest impediment will be the campaign lodged by the downtown businesses against any reform requiring them to pay their fair share for services provided. In 1994, these businesses spent \$750,000 against a ballot measure that would have begun the process of creating a Downtown Transit Assessment District; no doubt they will pour their seemingly unlimited resources into this campaign again.

That is why it is important that we ask all San Franciscans to contribute to fully funding Muni. By doing so, not only will we secure greater funding for the beleaguered transportation agency, we will also take away the opponent’s only logical argument—that we are taxing the few for the benefit of the many. Most importantly, by assessing this fee or tax against all San Franciscans, we will raise adequate resources to establish a free Muni system.

Creating a free, world-class public transit system will help San Francisco meet a number of laudable goals while further establishing the City’s reputation as an international leader on environmental and social issues. By providing an economic incentive to get citizens out of their cars and onto the bus, we will radically reduce both our dependence on foreign oil and our contribution to global warming. The improvements to traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and air quality will be immediate and noticeable. Equally important, by introducing free Muni service, we will be taking another large step toward making the City more affordable for families and working citizens. ■

## Those who benefit the most from Muni services would contribute the most.

world-class public transit system, we must create a dedicated funding source to fully fund Muni. A downtown tax or transit assessment district is one such possibility. Attempts to add revenue by increasing enforcement and raising parking rates will not earn sufficient amounts of money to meet Muni’s need.

Politically difficult solutions like creating a parcel tax for transit, establishing a transit assessment district, or an annual transit impact fee must be implemented and assessed citywide. All three of these funding mechanisms could be assessed on a sliding scale so that those who benefit the most from Muni services—large downtown property owners and businesses—would in turn contribute the most.

## SPEAK OUT FOR FAMILIES RALLY



JOSEPH SMOOKE

Hundreds gathered at City Hall May 12, 2007 to support Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. The rally centered around Coleman’s budget and policy platform for keeping families in San Francisco, including affordable family housing, violence prevention, better public schools, job training and more.



## RECREATION AND PARK MEETING: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRESSED AS KEY

By Jane Martin

Tuesday, April 24, residents from the Community Campaign for a Safer Neighborhood gathered in the newly painted Bernal Gym, eager to provide youth with alternatives to violence, such as positive after school programs. Over twenty people showed up to the meeting to discuss how the Bernal Recreation Center can do more for youth and continue to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Many residents spoke up at the meeting, stressing the importance of well-maintained facilities, and regularity in hours and scheduled programming. According to Frank Kellom, Alemany resident, youth programs are vital to the community’s safety and health.

Acknowledging that the program at the Bernal Rec Center hasn’t been all it could be, Bob Palacio, Recreation and Park Area Manager, insisted the Center was committed to improvement, and that this meeting was only the first step in soliciting community input. In addition, Palacio mentioned new exercise machines were on order for the weight room.

Residents welcomed this opportunity to start working with the staff, some signing up to start a community advisory committee, and several expressed their appreciation for the Recreation Directors, Tom Mayfield and Howard Smith. Ultimately, both staff and residents agreed to start working together to do more outreach and spread the word about regularly programmed activities.

Attend the next community meeting to see what progress has been made and have your voice heard: July 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bernal Recreation Center, 500 Moultrie Street ■

## Bernal Heights Recreation Center SUMMER PROGRAMING

Begins June 18th through August 17th

### Monday

1:00pm - 3:00pm Jr. Giants Baseball practice  
3:30pm - 5:00pm Turf Teen Dancing  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Adult Barbecue Class

### Tuesday

10:00am - 12:00pm Kids Gym  
1:30pm - 3:30pm Adult Walking Class  
2:00pm - 4:00pm Boys 14 & Under AAU Basketball Practice  
3:30pm - 5:00pm Boys Club  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Adult Table Games (Domino's, Whist, Chess)

### Wednesday

10:00am - 12:00pm Tiny Tots  
1:00pm - 3:00pm Jr. Giants Baseball Practice  
1:30pm - 3:00pm Weight Training  
4:00pm - 5:00pm Jr. Chef Cooking Class  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Adult Community Basketball League

### Thursday

10:00am - 12:00pm Kids Gym  
1:30pm - 3:00pm Adult Walking Class  
2:00pm - 4:00pm Boys 14 & Under AAU Basketball Practice  
7:00pm - 9:00pm Adult Aztec Dancing  
\*\*\*\*\* Times TBA Outing Day Field Trips)

### Friday

10:00am - 12:00pm Tiny Tots  
1:00pm - 3:00pm Jr. Giants Baseball Games  
1:30pm - 3:00pm Weight Training & Exercise  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Teen Night

### Saturday

9:00am - 11:00am Rhythm and Motion  
12:00pm - 3:00pm Boys 14 & Under B-Ball (off site)

Hours of Operation: Monday 12:00pm - 9:00pm  
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“ALL QUARTERS OF THE EARTH”  
Notes from the Bernal Heights Branch Library

WHAT’S NEW AT THE LIBRARY? OUR LAST SUMMER BEFORE RENOVATION!



What do you think is happening on the hill? Find out at History Day at the Library, June 23!

By Lisa Dunseth, Branch Manager

HISTORY DAY

While we still don’t have a firm closing date, we are planning to celebrate our last summer in the building with lots of special events. You are especially invited to join us on Saturday, June 23, at 2 p.m. for History Day, co-sponsored by the Bernal History Project. Good Life Grocery will display the historic photo boards during June and July. But the main event will be a sneak preview of the long anticipated publication of SAN FRANCISCO’S BERNAL HEIGHTS by Arcadia Publishing. Meet the authors and other local historians. Enjoy lively conversation and lore, music, ice cream, and maybe even a soapbox derby car or coyote along with a few other surprises.

HARRY POTTER LUNCH CLUB

We plan to celebrate the publication of HP7 (or HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS as it’s also known) with a brown bag lunch club for kids who want to listen to Jim Dale’s audio recording of the book. Join us in Hogwart’s as we enjoy the sure-to-be spellbinding finale. Call mid-July for details and to sign up. [Creative volunteers needed to help with the Hogwart’s transformation....call Lisa if you want to help.]

GROWN-UPS SUMMER READING CLUB

The little guys have one and so do the teens—this year, the grown-ups get to participate too. Keep track of your reading to be eligible for raffle prizes generously donated by Cortland Avenue merchants: June 16-August 11.

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL / BERNAL HEIGHTS

This event is being organized by San Francisco Poet Laureate Jack Hirschman and features readings by Marc Bamuthi Joseph and Maram Al Masri, Saturday, July 28, 2:30 p.m.

MORE SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Teen Summer Reading Club, June 15 – July 27. Call for details or just come in to sign up.

Hip Hop Dance Classes For Teens, with DK Kelley, continues this summer at the BH Rec. Center, Fridays, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The Big Hello And The Long Goodbye. A private investigator by day and mystery writer by night, Peter Gessner will discuss his debut novel, Tuesday, June 12, 7p.m.

Vincent Van Gogh, Slide Show & Lecture, with Marlene Aron, Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m.

GET A CLUE AT THE LIBRARY SUMMER READING CLUB

for children up to age 12, June 16 – August 11. Read, win prizes and enjoy our special summer programs:

- Music and Songs with Dan Goldensohn, June 7, 10:30 a.m., preschoolers.
- Pena-Govea Family, June 20, 4 p.m., Music and songs in Spanish and English, for children of all ages.
- The Bubble Lady, June 27, 4 p.m. Featuring bubbles and clowning fun! For children of all ages.

- Bonnie Lockhart, Songs and Music Games From Around the World, July 12, 10:30 a.m., preschoolers.
- Insect Discovery Lab, Wild and Buggy Fun! July 18, 4 pm., ages 6 and up.
- Dana Smith & His Performing Dog Lacey! Lots of Juggling Fun! July 25, 4 p.m., ages 5 and up.
- Opera Piccola, Performs “Into The Eye Of Magic”, Chinese Folk Tale, August 1st, 4 p.m., ages 6 and up.
- Donna Uzoigwe, Spanish Bilingual Circle of Songs, August 9, 10:30 a.m., preschoolers.
- Chiquy Boom, Summer Reading Club Party, Bilingual Silly Magic Show With Music and Movement—All The Way From Venezuela, August 11th, 2:30 p.m. all ages.

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

Infant Toddler Lapsit: Storytime for infants and toddlers, ages 0-3, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., June 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 19, 26.

Preschool Storytime: ages 3-5, Thursdays, 11:00 a.m., June 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 19, 26.

Origami Club: Saturdays, June 2 and July 7, 2:00 p.m.; All skill levels welcome. Children under 8 with parents. Bring any kind of paper if you can.

Crafts With Sophie: Wednesdays, June 13 and July 11, 4 p.m., for children of all ages.

OWL: Older Writers Laboratory, will be moving to On-Lok Senior Services (30th and Church) in August. Their last two meetings at the Bernal Heights Library will be June 14 and July 12, (1:30-3:30). We will miss them and their poems but are happy they have found a new home before our upcoming closure.

BOOK CLUB WILL MEET TO DISCUSS:

THE HUMMINGBIRD’S DAUGHTER by Luis Urrea, June 28, 4 p.m

SIDDHARTHA by Hermann Hesse, July 26th, 4 p.m.

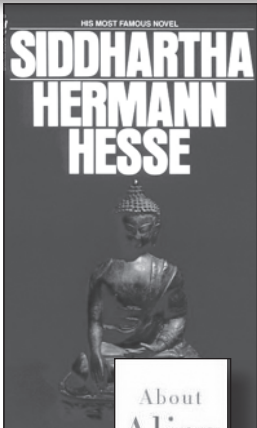
STAFF RECOMMENDS:

DINORAH: El Jardín del Edén: THE GARDEN OF EDEN (DVD)

HANNAH: WHITE LIES by Jayne Ann Krentz.

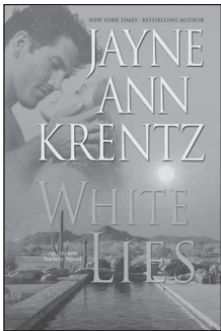
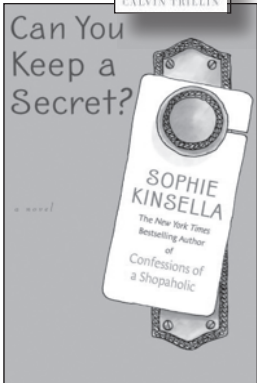
LISA: ABOUT ALICE by Calvin Trillin

MONICA: CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET? by Sophie Kinsell ■



About Alice

Calvin Trillin



All programs at the library are free and sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Gabriel Sharing Fund. The library is located at 500 Cortland Avenue. Call 355-2810 for more information.



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## HISTORY IN THE MAKING:

## Celebrate the Neighborhood with Bernal Heights History Days

By Vicky Walker

On Saturday, June 23, come to the Bernal Heights branch library on Cortland Avenue at 2 p.m. for our second annual History Day, a neighborly ice cream social and multimedia extravaganza. Residents young and old, past and present, are all invited to this free event.

The afternoon will include a slideshow of never-before-seen photographs of Bernal and its residents through history; guest speakers, including local historians, longtime residents, and filmmakers; a short film showing the demolition of the reservoir-keeper's cottage on Elsie Street in the early 1970s, shot by sisters Janet and Betty Mikulas from their house opposite; other short films (to be confirmed) with a Bernal theme; Bernal-related music and artwork, with some of the artists on hand; an open mic for neighbors who want to share their stories and memories; and, of course, ice cream, sodas, and other snacks perfect for a summer Saturday afternoon.

And on Saturday, June 30, it's "Neighborhood Exchange: Sharing of Local Histories: Bernal Heights/Potrero Hill/Visitation Valley" at the Neighborhood House in Potrero Hill (953 De Haro), starting at 2:30 p.m. We'll share short films, stories.

and images of three vibrant San Francisco communities. There will be an open discussion and exchange of ideas on historical projects and resources in each of the neighborhoods, plus light refreshments and intriguing insights. The Potrero Hill and Visitacion Valley books in the Arcadia Images of America series will be available at this event.

Meanwhile, the Arcadia book San Francisco's Bernal Heights will be published on July 23. Parks, personalities, and many other legends of the hill are collected in the book, thanks to the memories and contributions of Bernal residents. Longtime Chronicle reporter and Bernal resident Carl Nolte wrote the introduction and the Bernal History Project group, an offshoot of Bernal Heights Preservation ("BHP"), gathered pictures and stories for this definitive history of the neighborhood. Proceeds from the book will help establish a permanent archive for the photographs, oral histories, and other historical treasures the group has recorded.

The BHP meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Bernal Heights branch library. Admission is free and open to all. Visit [www.bernal-heightspreservation.org](http://www.bernal-heightspreservation.org) for more information. ■

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## Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.

Return to:

**Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center**  
**515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110.**

## HOUSING SUPPLEMENTAL RALLY



above:  
BHNC staff join fellow  
affordable housing  
advocates April 23, 2007  
at City Hall to support a  
proposed budget  
allocation of \$28 million  
for affordable housing.



right:  
Eric Quezada, BHNC  
board member and  
Director of Dolores Street  
Community Services,  
speaks to the large and  
vocal crowd.



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LEGENDS OF THE HILL

BERNAL HEIGHTS HISTORY

It was Bernal Park in this 1928 photo; now, it's named Precita Park. The row of Blackwood Acacia trees were planted before the park became an earthquake refugee camp in 1906. Unlike today, parking spaces were everywhere, but almost no one owned cars. This view, peering West down Precita Avenue from the photographer's location on Alabama Street, shows O'Connor's Groceries on the corner at 433. The corner location has always been a market, starting with a general store in the 1890s operated by John Graham for decades, including the popular Rose bowl Liquors in the 1960s and T & J Market, as it is today.

—Terry Milne

HOMES NOT JAILS



JOSEPH SMOORE



On April 7, 2007, Homes Not Jails and Food Not Bombs brought a crowd together at the 24th Street BART Plaza, then marched to a building on 23rd Street that had been emptied years ago by a developer invoking the State's Ellis Act. Support Assemblyman Mark Leno as he works to repeal the Ellis Act, which has disproportionately impacted the east and southeast neighborhoods of San Francisco.

SOAP BOX LECTURE SERIES

Bernal Bubbles continues its series of free half-hour lecture in June and July. Lectures begin at 10 p.m. and, after each lecture, guests are invited to extend the conversation up the street at 301 Bocana Gallery. The Gallery is run by artist Teresa O'Connor, who has graciously offered her space as a place for refreshments and to continue the discussion between lecture participants and the public.

**June 2: Sheila Ghidini:**  
*"Bernal By Heart: A Walking Map"*

"Lines of desire" is a term used by architects and landscape architects to name the well-traveled paths made through the landscape by animals and people. Bernal Heights is home to a multitude of these kinds of paths; Sheila will enlighten us about these pathways. Sheila Ghidini was born in Connecticut and attended the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford as well as graduate work at Cranbrook Academy of Art. Sheila completed her M.F.A. in sculpture at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving the Sylvan and Pam Coleman Memorial Fellowship. She lives and works in Bernal Heights.



Tai Chi by Sheila Ghidini

**July 7: Tiffany Shlain and Ken Goldberg:**  
*"What Can Spaghetti Teach Us About The Human Condition?"*

Tiffany Shlain has studied film theory at UC Berkeley and film production at NYU's Sight & Sound program. She has made eight films, including "Life, Liberty & The Pursuit of Happiness" (2003), and "The Tribe" (2006) which she co-wrote with her husband, Ken Goldberg. Ken Goldberg is an artist and professor of engineering at UC Berkeley. Ballet Mori, a multi-media project he developed to commemorate the 1906 Earthquake, was performed by the SF Ballet at the San Francisco Opera House. In 2006, Ken and Tiffany founded The Moxie Institute. It is a collective that creates work drawn from the intersection of film, performance, the Internet and social change—a marriage of all of their collective passions. The Moxie Institute co-hosts think tanks around the country about the future of film and the Internet. Ken and Tiffany live in Mill Valley with their four-year-old daughter Odessa Simone. For more information, call Ray Beldner at 415-297-2319. ■



Tiffany Shlain



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# COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

## BERNAL HEIGHTS OUTDOOR CINEMA SETS SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE; CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

by Leslie Lombre

Organizers of the fourth annual summer series of free screenings in Bernal neighborhood parks have secured the last week of September for this year's showcase of the best in local filmmaking. Neighbors, friends and citywide film lovers will be treated to four screenings spread over a five day window from September 26 – 29, 2007.



Audiences gather on the top of the Hill to watch Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema screenings.

ground and on the campus of Metropolitan High School.

Established four years ago as an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the wealth of local resident filmmakers, the series has included a surprising number of established producers, directors, editors and industry-related specialists. In addition to the other evening screenings, submissions are currently being sought for "Youth Filmworks!" a single, special screening exhibiting films for children and family audiences as well as showcasing works by young videographers and filmmakers. Individuals who have participated in work from any development, production or distribution area can submit a title. Filmmakers with ties to the neighborhood are strongly encouraged.

Other non-resident filmmakers are welcome to participate with entries that "speak to the political, social and artistic sentiment" of the neighborhood. This separate category was created to enable audiences to see work that shares the neighborhood's sensibilities on many of today's issues.

The deadline for submissions is July 1, 2007. For submission requirements and general information, visit [www.bhoutdoorcine.org](http://www.bhoutdoorcine.org). ■

## COVER STORY

### Condos: Editorial

continued from page 1

ect approval process, the community's needs, or even their own policies seriously.

By approving this development on April 19, the Planning Department has acted irresponsibly. Because of this mismanagement, the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC) has appealed Seven Hills Properties' development approvals to the Board of Supervisors. We all need to contact the Supervisors, attend the appeal hearing, and let them know why this issue is important—because not only is the Planning Department acting recklessly, this development is manipulating both process and information, thereby affecting a host of issues in our community.

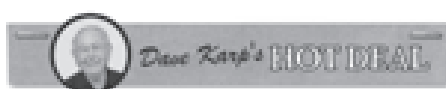
The condo developer, Seven Hills Properties, their attorney, and Barbary Coast Consulting, their hired public relations firm, lied repeatedly during the Planning Commission hearing. They claimed that families would be able to afford these simple, unadorned condos through first time home buyer's programs financing help from the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) Down Payment Assistance Loan Program (DALP). Truth is there will be *nine* below-market units affordable to working middle class families in compliance with the Inclusionary Zoning law. All other units will be at market rates which, according to the developer, will be near \$550,000 for a studio while 3-bedrooms will be close to \$700,000. \$620,000 is the City's price cap for purchasing with DALP assistance. A single person making up to \$63,850 (100% of median and \$30 per hour) qualifies for DALP. This person would have to come up with a \$27,500 down payment of

their own and just under \$3,000 per month for mortgage payments (55% of that person's income). The less a person earns, the greater a burden that mortgage payment will be: a single person earning \$44,700 (80% of median and \$21.50 per hour) and qualifying for the maximum amount of DALP, would pay just under 70% of their income for their mortgage—and they still have to come up with the \$27,500 cash. So, the DALP helps, but only applies here to single people, not families, and only those close to 100% of median income.

That the project proposed by Seven Hills is "affordable family housing" isn't the only lie. What about the Eastern Neighborhoods' other goal of retaining and providing good paying jobs? Building affordable housing not only creates homes for working families, but also provides good prevailing wage and/or union construction jobs. However, the developer and their supporters in the community are using job creation as an excuse to support the condo development. One group of supporters, the Northwest Bernal Alliance (NWBA), is a neighborhood association with a history of helping development in order to get day laborers out of the community. For this reason, the NWBA facilitated Home Depot's project approvals in 2005 hoping a Home Depot on Bayshore would attract day laborers to move their congregating point. Despite their actions to facilitate Home Depot's approval process, NWBA members have supposedly been working on a ban on "formula retail"

continued on page 19

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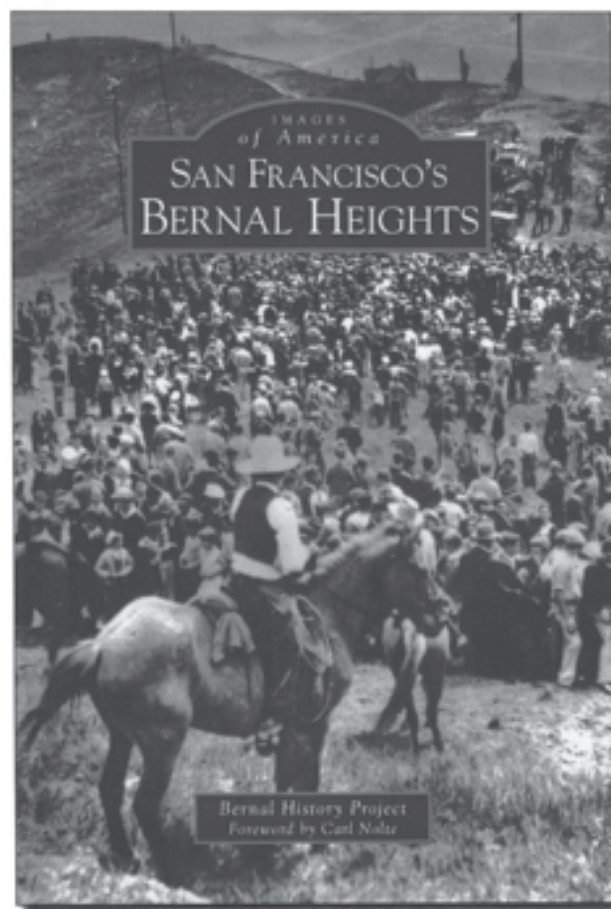
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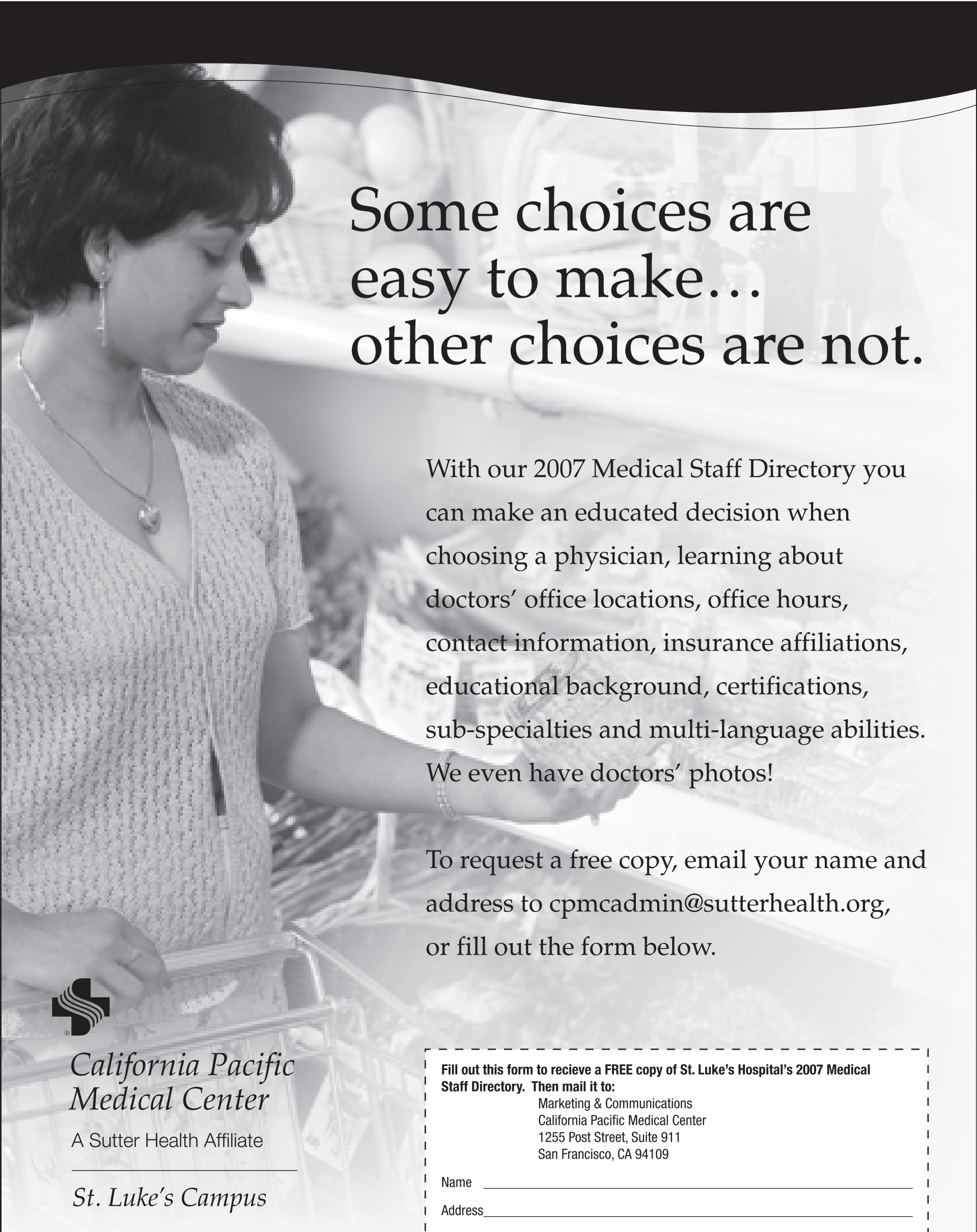
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## COVER STORY

## Condos: Editorial

continued from page 16

which would help to safeguard local businesses from out-of-scale competition. Then the NWBA showed up to the April 19 Kelly Moore hearings actively, vocally supporting the 24-hour Walgreens proposed to occupy the development's ground level.

But, you might be asking, what's wrong with a 24-hour Walgreens, why bring up Home Depot, and why should you or the NWBA care?

Just down Cesar Chavez from the proposed project, the City-funded Day Laborer Program operates in a space much too small for it, causing day laborers trying to find work to wait at the Kelly Moore site and on 26th Street. La Raza Centro Legal which runs the day labor program has been advocating for more space and rights for these marginalized workers. Home Depot, during their 2005 project approval process, said publicly that they will call police on day laborers waiting for work at the new store. Learning from the community outrage and resulting opposition to that statement, the current condo developer, Seven Hills Properties, knew they would not have a viable project if they merely displaced day laborers, so the Mayor's Office came up with the ideal solution—take \$100,000 from Home Depot (so Home Depot makes good on the vague commitment forced on them during their project approvals to support the Day Laborer Program) and use that money to establish a new Day Laborer Center on Bayshore near the Home Depot. Home Depot's letter committing to this strategy was presented during the planning hearing to approve the Seven Hills Development at the Kelly Moore site. Without consulting the

**Healthcare corporations may be looking to get out of providing a pharmacy and union jobs at St. Luke's.**

Day Laborer Program or other community groups, the Mayor moved ahead with plans for the new site, conveniently for Seven Hills and Home Depot.

If you're not upset by this collusion of big-money interests already, consider then that healthcare corporations may be looking to this development to get out of providing a pharmacy at St Luke's that also provides union jobs! When St. Luke's hospital was sold five years ago to Sutter Health they negotiated a five-year community commitment in response to community activism to save needed services. Now Sutter Health has been closing community based services and eliminating union jobs right and left. Sutter's recently approved controversial merger with California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) has many people worried that CPMC will close St. Luke's rather than continue to serve the poor, the underinsured, and the uninsured. In order to avoid the state's seismic retrofit requirements, CPMC would then relocate services into the mega-hospital they're planning to build on Van Ness. CPMC has been talking for months about cutting the pharmacy at St. Luke's that provides patients with convenient service and workers with union jobs. A 24-hour Walgreens across the street would provide

the perfect justification for them to close the St. Luke's pharmacy.

MAC received a letter in December 2006 from Seven Hills stating that Seven Hills was not able to meet the demands of the community to provide affordable housing, community services or blue collar jobs, and so would be interested in selling its development interest to MAC if MAC could come up with a development proposal. MAC then worked with us at BHNC, and together, we created a viable offer which Seven Hills dismissed as unrealistic both in conversations with us and during the April 19 hearing. Are we confident that our development plan is feasible? Our proposal was to develop between 60 and 70 units of affordable housing above community service facilities. Across the street, in 2001, BHNC opened its Bernal Gateway development, 55 affordable family units with on-site community services that subsequently won two highly coveted national awards and built with a similar financing strategy that we propose to employ at the Kelly Moore site. So, obviously, the answer is yes!

Let's stop playing money politics with our community! The Kelly Moore site is perfect for affordable family housing to keep families in San Francisco. The City's General Plan and the Supervisors' policy statement for the Eastern Neighborhoods demand it! The fact that working families and the working poor are being forced out of San Francisco leaves us with an unsustainable social, economic and environmental future. This site is also perfect for an expanded Day Laborer Center capable of taking more workers off the street and helping them receive job training, facilitated connections to employment, and family support in a dignified environment rather than standing out on the street all

day. We also can't let a 24-hour Walgreens add to the dangerous traffic at this intersection and at the same time provide St. Luke's with an excuse for cutting its community serving pharmacy and union jobs. We have to support progressive City policies already in place in the City's General Plan and policy statements related to development of the Eastern Neighborhoods. It is the Planning Department's job to hold developers accountable to these laws and policies. Since they did not, we're taking these issues to the Board of Supervisors where we look forward to restoring sense and responsibility in government so that it supports the growth in our communities that creates social justice rather than exacerbating inequities. ■

*If you are interested in this issue, please contact Jane Martin, BHNC Community Organizer, at [jmartin@bhnc.org](mailto:jmartin@bhnc.org) (415) 206-2140 x155 and join us at the upcoming Board of Supervisors hearing on the Seven Hills Properties' proposed development which we expect will take place in mid June.*

## COVER STORY

## Condos: What they mean

continued from page 1

community groups, including the BHNC, have worked hard to create an alternative plan for the site that would prioritize the community's needs, including affordable housing and community services. ■

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